



CAL FIRE
San Luis Obispo
County Fire Department

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Matt Jenkins, Fire Chief

COMMERCIAL FIRE PLAN REVIEW

October 2, 2009

Subject: DRC2009-00004 CUP for surface mining operation.

To: John McKenzie
Planning and Building Department

I have reviewed the Fire Safety Plan Application you submitted for the surface mine and reclamation plan associated with sun power solar ranch. This operation is located on APN # 072-071-007, which is a 160 acre parcel with no known street address in the community of California Valley, California. The site is accessed via an existing dirt road North of Highway 58, approximately 4 miles East of Soda Lake Road, continue 2.8 miles North along existing dirt road to the surface mine site.

The project is within a **high fire hazard severity zone** with a 20 minute response time from the nearest County Fire Station. This county fire station, Carrizzo Plains station#42 is only staffed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. An additional 15 minutes minimum response time would be expected on Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday.

The project and applicant shall comply with the 2007 California Fire Code (CFC), the 2007 California Building Code (CBC), the Public Resources Code (PRC) and any other applicable fire laws.

Commercial Access Road:

- A commercial access road must be 20 feet wide.
- Parking is only allowed where an additional 8 feet of width is added for each side of the road that has parking.
- Must be an all weather non-skid paved surface.
- All roads must be able to support a fire engine weighing 40,000 pounds..
- Vertical clearance of 13'6" is required.

Gates:

- Must be setback from the road 30 feet from the intersection.
- Must automatically open with no special knowledge.
- Must have a KNOX key box or switch for fire department access. Call the Prevention Bureau for an order form at (805) 543-4244.
- Gate shall have an approved means of emergency operation at all times. CFC 503.6
- Gate must be 2 feet wider than the road on each side.

- Gates must have a turnaround located at each gate.

Site Identification Addressing:

A site access road identification sign must be legible at the entrance on Highway 58. This sign/marker shall be on a contrasting background and a minimum of 10 inch lettering with 1/2" stroke. This sign/marker must be displayed in a prominent location. CFC 505.1 Streets and roads shall be identified with approved signs. CFC 505.2

Portable Fire Extinguishers:

California Fire Code section 906 requires a minimum 2A fire extinguisher shall be kept readily accessible on each piece of earth moving heavy equipment used at the surface mining site.

Fire Safety during Construction:

Prior and during construction all applicable Public Resources Codes must be complied with to prevent a wildfire. These will include the use of spark arresters, adequate clearance around welding operations, smoking restrictions and having extinguishers on site. The Industrial Operations Fire

Prevention Field Guide will assist the applicant and is

available online at http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_engineering_view?guide_id=12

California Health and Safety Code Section 13001 - Causing Fire, Misdemeanor.

Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor who, through careless or negligent action, throws or places any lighted cigarette, cigar, ashes, or other flaming or glowing substance, or any substance or thing which may cause a fire, in any place where it may directly or indirectly start a fire, or who uses or operates a welding torch, tar pot or any other device which may cause a fire who does not clear the inflammable material surrounding the operation or take such other reasonable precautions necessary to insure against the starting and spreading of fire.

California Public Resource Code Section 4427 - Clearing and Tools Required.

During any time of the year when burning permits are required in an area pursuant to this article, no person shall use or operate any motor, engine, boiler, stationary equipment, welding equipment, cutting torches, tarpots, or grinding devices from which a spark, fire, or flame may originate, which is located on or near any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land, without doing both of the following:

- (a) First clearing away all flammable material, including snags, from the area around such operation for a distance of 10 feet.
- (b) Maintain one serviceable round point shovel with an overall length of not less than forty-six (46) inches and one backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher fully equipped and ready for use at the immediate area during the operation.

California Public Resource Code Section 4442 - Using Equipment Without Spark Arrester.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall use, operate, or allow to be used or operated, any internal combustion engine which uses hydrocarbon fuels on any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land unless the engine is equipped with a spark arrester, as defined in subdivision (c), maintained in effective working order or the engine is constructed, equipped, and maintained for the prevention of fire pursuant to Section 4443.

(b) Spark arresters affixed to the exhaust system of engines or vehicles subject to this section shall not be placed or mounted in such a manner as to allow flames or heat from the exhaust system to ignite any flammable material.

(c) A spark arrester is a device constructed of nonflammable materials specifically for the purpose of removing and retaining carbon and other flammable particles over 0.0232 of an inch in size from the exhaust flow of an internal combustion engine that uses hydrocarbon fuels or which is qualified and rated by the United States Forest Service.

In addition to the above requirements CAL FIRE **recommends** but will not require that a water storage tank of 2,500 gallons with a draft hydrant on site.

If I can provide additional information or assistance on this mater, please don't hesitate to contact me at (805) 543-4244. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Tina Rose
Fire Inspector

cc: SunPower Corporation, Brian Parker.
Rowland and Catherine Twisselman